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Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" In answer to clause (*a*) it is stated that the last report received by the Government was on the 27th November 1934. May I ask whether the Government are not getting any periodical report with regard to the keeping on of Punitive Police in these places?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" In this case the extension was for a definite period of one year and at the time of the extension the Government advised the District Magistrate and the other local officials to report if there be such improvement in the state of things as would justify the withdrawal of the punitive police and obviously the situation has not improved to such an extent as would justify the local officials to making a report; and no report has been received."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" May I enquire, Sir, whether it is a fact that representations have been made to the District Magistrate to the effect that commission of crimes in that area is to some extent due to the encouragement of the punitive police themselves?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" We have no information. I shall be extremely thankful if the hon. Member will bring any such specific instance to my notice."

Electricity

Interruption of the Hydro-Electric Works at Mettur.

* 394 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the work of the hydro-electric construction at Mettur had been stopped during August and September of this year;

(*b*) if so, why and when it was commenced again; and

(*c*) when the works are expected to be finished?

A.—(*a*) Work on the foundations of the power-house at Mettur was stopped for a portion of the two months August–September.

(*b*) The water level in the Mettur reservoir was so low in the middle of August 1935 that the high level sluices could not discharge any substantial amount of water and as owing to slips in the low level channel earlier in the season it was advisable to limit the discharge from the low level sluices, the supply to the delta had to be augmented by issues through the hydro-electric pipes in the dam. After the reservoir rose to a safe level, orders were issued on the 16th September 1935 to close the pipes and the work of dewatering the power-house foundation area was begun.

(*c*) The Mettur Hydro-Electric Scheme is expected to be completed in 1937–38.

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Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar:—" May I know whether under the scheme formulated, Madras would be able to get a supply from Mettur?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—" It is too early to reply to that question."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar:—" I thought the Government would have a programme before they started on the scheme."

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—" Yes. But the present programme does not include Madras. Government do not feel that there is any great necessity for securing current for Madras from Mettur. I should be glad to think that the present service is satisfactory."

Electrification of Tiruchengode, Salem district.

* 395 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) at what stage the electrification of the town of Tiruchengode in Salem district now is;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that Messrs. Octavius Steel and Company, the contractors for distribution of energy in Salem area are not willing to lay the line and incur capital expenses since their contract period has much advanced now; and

(*c*) if so, whether the copy of the letter addressed by the company to the Government will be placed on the table together with a copy of the reply of the Government thereon?

A.—(*a*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 323 (*a*) asked by him.

(*b*) Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co. are the Managing Agents of the Salem-Erode Electricity Distribution Company which holds the licence for the area in question. They have informed the Chief Engineer for Electricity that they will proceed with the scheme of extending supply of power to Tiruchengode if the Government will construct H.T. lines in their area of supply against a guaranteed revenue of 12½ per cent per annum. The matter is under the consideration of Government.

(*c*) The company have not addressed any letter to the Government on the subject.

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—" May I ask, Sir, with regard to other areas for which licences have been granted, whether the cost of laying high tension lines were met by the licensees or by the Government?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—" There is only one such instance. The Ootacamund Municipality in their attempt to